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Doctor Klein, also of the Hongkong government board, leans strongly toward the skin. This idea is obviously a substantiation of a part of Captain Liston's flea theory. Doctor Hunter's charts show definitely that the curve of human follows that of rat plague with great regularity, both in its rise and fall, with an interval of about a fortnight. There is a difference, however, in that the rat plague seems to be continuously epizootic, as after each epidemic has fallen to its lowest it again rises to a fairly constant level, where it continues until the next epidemic period. This is followed promptly by the human epidemic, which in the interval, since the last, has been essentially quiescent.

Doctor Hunter's point is that human plague is recurrently epidemic, the recurrences synchronizing closely with the exacerbations of the rat epizootic. It may even be that plague, when it ceases to be epizootic, continues as enzootic among rats and other muridæ. Doctor Hunter even goes so far as apparently to believe that upon the repeated passage of the bacillus through the rat it becomes more or less nonvirulent and causes a chronic type of plague in the rat, which idea seems hardly tenable. He, at the same time, considers the periodical recrudescence of acute rat plague to be caused by an infection of fresh generations of rats which are very susceptible. This view is entirely in accord with Captain Liston's experience that plague is most prevalent in rats during their breeding season.

Whatever disagreement there may be between theories of how plague is communicated from rat to man, the fact is almost universally admitted. Such being the case, it is obviously advisable, or, better, absolutely imperative that there should be a systematic and wholesale rat destruction in infected or threatened area. It seems to be almost a perverted judgment to permit the "scruples" or "prejudices" of any community to stand in the way of taking the life of a rat, considering the magnitude of the stake. So far as India is concerned, perhaps the most forcible argument against rat destruction is that even were all the rats destroyed plague would continue to exist because of the filthy sanitary, or absolute lack of sanitary, habits of living. However, that remains to be proved.

#### JAPAN.

##### *Report from Yokohama—Emigrants recommended for rejection.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Moore reports, March 14, as follows:

Number of emigrants for steamship *Kanagawa Maru*, for Seattle, recommended, March 11, for rejection, 14.

One emigrant per steamship *Doric* for San Francisco, recommended March 14, for rejection.

##### *Report from Kobe—Emigrants recommended for rejection.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Fowler reports, March 2, as follows:

Number of emigrants recommended during month of February, 1905, for rejection: Per steamships *Siberia*, for San Francisco, February 1, 2; *Iyo Maru*, for Seattle, February 7, 1; *Magnolia*, for Honolulu, February 14, 10; for San Francisco, 2; *Manchuria*, for Manila, February 21, 14; *Minnesota*, for Manila, February 24, 4; *China*, for Honolulu, February 25, 8.